

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1765

To provide for the establishment of two nationally distributed video programming channels providing language instruction.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. BAIRD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of two nationally distributed video programming channels providing language instruction.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Access to Language
5 Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL LANGUAGE INSTRU-**
7 **CTION DISTRIBUTION PLAN.**

8 (a) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED.—Within one
9 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Commerce, acting through the National Telecommuni-

1 cations and Information Administration, and after con-
2 sultation with the Secretary of Education, the Federal
3 Communications Commission, the Secretary of State, and
4 the Secretary of Defense, shall prepare and submit to each
5 House of the Congress a plan for national distribution of
6 video programming channels providing language instruc-
7 tion in accordance with the requirements of this section.

8 (b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan required by
9 this section shall—

10 (1) provide for the distribution of two channels
11 of video programming providing language instruc-
12 tion;

13 (2) provide that—

14 (A) one of such channels—

15 (i) shall be composed of programming
16 providing instruction in English for non-
17 English speaking individuals; and

18 (ii) shall be distributed in each tele-
19 vision market via broadcasting or cable
20 and satellite, and distributed nationally via
21 Internet delivery; and

22 (B) the other such channel—

23 (i) shall be composed of programming
24 providing instruction in languages that are
25 not widely taught in educational institu-

1 tions in the United States and that are
2 likely to have significant value for the
3 United States in global competitiveness,
4 trade, international relations, national se-
5 curity, and defense; and

6 (ii) shall be distributed nationally via
7 Internet delivery; and

8 (3) identify—

9 (A) the participants to be engaged in—

10 (i) producing and evaluating the in-
11 structional programming; and

12 (ii) broadcasting or otherwise distrib-
13 uting the programming in each market;
14 and

15 (B) the methods by which such partici-
16 pants will be engaged and compensated for
17 their participation;

18 (4) evaluate the costs, and methods for funding
19 the costs, of providing and distributing such instruc-
20 tional programming; and

21 (5) recommend any legislative or regulatory
22 changes required to implement the plan.

23 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to develop, submit, and
25 implement the plan required by this section, such sums

- 1 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008 each of the 3
- 2 succeeding fiscal years.

